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"Garp and Helen ... realized that all these years Walt had been dreading a giant toad, lurking offshore, waiting to suck him under and drag him out to sea. The terrible Under Toad ... Did it ever float? Or was it always down under, slimy and bloated and ever-watchful for ankles its coated tongue could snare? The vile Under Toad." - John Irving: The World According to Garp. London: Gollancz, 1978: 341

Behemoth

- Loch Ness: On June 6, 1989, a Vancouver couple took a videotape of the Loch Ness monster off Strone: "something in the water making a wave. It shows a dark lump moving steadily through the water on a weaving course." Nessletter 95 (Rip Hepple, Huntshildford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL 13 1 RQ, UK) Also in Fortean Times 53, p.3 (20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX, UK)
- Ogopogo: The beast of Lake Okanogan, British Columbia, Canada, was videotaped in August 1989. Paul Gasek, a field producer for the National Geographic Society's Explorer series, says: "There's definitely something there". Ogopogo was also seen several times in August, see The INFO Journal 58, p.36 (PO Box 367, Arlington, VA 22210 -0367)
- China: China's monster lake Tianchi was mentioned in the Feb 1990 issue of "China Heute" (p.13), but the article does not mention the monster. We learn, however, that Lake Tianchi (on the border to Corea) is China's deepest lake, an ancient crater of a vulcano filled with water. It is 373 metres deep, and there are waterfalls and thermal springs in the area.
- Bibliography: "China im Aufbau", July 1989: dragon museum in Weifang. - Theory that the dinosaurs of Africa's Lac Tele are actually swimming elephants with their trunks raised, Fortean Times 53, p.13. - Lake Karnaci a.k.a. Hanas in China, and a story of its monster jumping into the air and snatching a man: Fortean Times 53, p.12. - A book for children, by Marie-José Sacré, published by the Strom Verlag, Lucerne, Switzerland, has the title: "Nessi (sic) - the friendly monster". - "The Observer" (24 Dec 1989, p.1) has a nice article on the theory that birds are actually living dinosaurs, and compares the Christmas turkey to Tyrannosaurus Rex! - German herpetologists have discovered a new species of giant monitor lizard in the Arabic Republic of Yemen. It is closely related to an African species, but was completely unknown until it was seen on a German TV documental! (Herpetofauna, 9, February: 13 - 20. credit: Michel Raynal) - There is evidence suggesting that some of New Zealand's tuataras may belong to different species (BBC Wildlife, Dec 1989, p.790. credit: Gerard van Leusden). - In a German cartoon ("Der doppelte Auberle") shown on German TV (ARD/SWF) on May 20, 1989, the cartoon's hero catches the Loch Ness monster. It resembles a giant serpent. - The American magazine "Strange" (P.O. Box 2246, Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA) will publish a special cryptozoology issue in February. As far as is planned, the magazine will contain two of my own articles on water monsters: one on African dinosaurs, and one on Irish sea serpents.

Isis

- close your eyes and you will be there
where the mermaids sing
as they comb their hair.
(Madonna: Dear Jessie)
- "water apes" and "aquatic homunculus" according to F. de Sarre's theory of "initial bipedalism", in *Mysteria*, 73/74, p. 19. A confused article and comment in Sarre's recent book in *Mysteria* 75/76, pp. 42 - 46 (*Mysteria*, Postfach 1227, 5884 Halver 1, West Germany). An additional bibliography on Edgar Dacqué, the German palaeontologist with unorthodox ideas about evolution (which included a sort of lizard man) will appear in the March 1990 issue of "Bipedia" (BP 65, 06022 Nice, France).
- France: A "sea monster with a human face" was spotted off the Ile de Groix (Morbihan, Brittany). No more details, source is Barloy's newsletter, 48, Nov 1989.
- Bibliography: New reports of the Carolina's lizard man: *Fortean Times* 53, p.10.

Leviathan

- Bibliography: - giant sea turtle rescues shipwrecked sailors off Luzon, Phillipines, on May 16, 1989, See: *Fortean Times* 53, p.18. A recent book on turtles (Alderton: *Turtles and Tortoises of the World. Facts on File*, 1989, p.97) mentions the "father of all the turtles" and quotes various ancient traditions of giant marine turtles.

USO

- On Oktober 20, 1989, several UFOs were spotted over Tyrol, Austria, including one that looked like "a metallic yacht cruising through the air as if it were on water". At the same time, northern lights were observed in southern Germany. "*Journal für UFO-Forschung*", 6/1989, p.187. (Postfach 2361, 5880 Lüdenscheid, West Germany)

Marine Forteana

- - Fishing smack disappears without trace off Lowestoft, England (*The Times*, 16 Sept 1989, p.3a). - Two Americans claim that they have found Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat ("*Tagesthemen*" -German news programme, 23 Sept 1989). - Rock Lake Pyramids, USA (*Science Frontiers* (Box 107, Glen Arm, Md 21057, USA) Nov/Dec 1989, Nr 65). - In a report by Charles Bremmer on witchcraft in Nicaragua in *The Times* (25 Jan 1990, p.8) he mentions "a crater lake from which local witches are said to summon an evil wind", 31 Miles from the capital. Nicaragua's First Lady herself professes to being a witch. For similar beliefs from Chile, see Bob Rickard's interesting article in *Fortean Times* 53, p.65, note 35.

Marine Life

- Whales: - porpoises near Sylt, Germany (*Rhein Zeitung*, 10 Jan 1990)
- 16 whales stranded of Louisiana, USA (*Arab News*, 11 Jan 1990).
- 47 ft sperm whale stranded off Penzance, Cornwall (*The Times*, 12 Feb 1990, p.5)
- Sharks, crocodiles & turtles: - shark attacks in Australia (*The Times*, 8 Jan 1990). - croc attack, Australia (*Saudi Gazette*, 10 Jan 1990). - two rare marine turtles were stranded on the Irish coast during the severe storms and gales in February (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 19 Feb 1990, p.9a; *Die Rheinpfalz*, 19 Feb 1990)

Cryptozoology

- Pumas: - one month search for elusive panther in Rome, Italy, some fuzzy fotos, but no big cat caught (*Frankfurter Rundschau*, 29 Dec 89; *ABC*, 30 Jan 90; *International Herald Tribune*, 18 Jan 90, p.5ab). - Ex-moor beast (*The Times*, 30 Dec 1989, p.7b). - puma spotted at Redruth, Cornwall (*The Times*, 12. Feb 1990, p.5)
- Yetis: - The Big Grey Man, or Scottish yeti (though it more closely resembles a ghost), large articles in "*The Observer*", 5 Nov, p.39; 12 Nov, p. 34 and 19 Nov 1989, p.35). - Pamir Almas (*S Gazette*, 7 Feb)